

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather Milk Production Quarterly Farm Labor Cattle on Feed

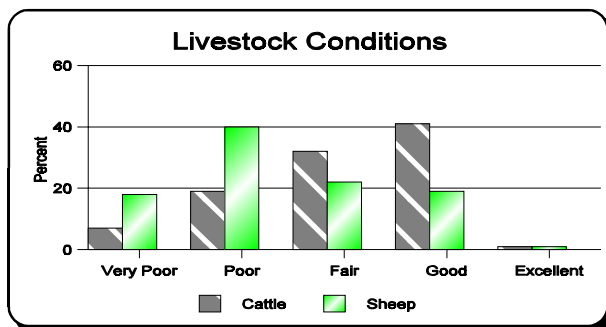
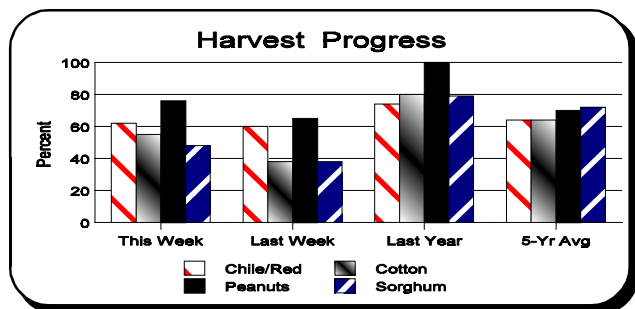
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 2002

NEW MEXICO: There were 6 days suitable for field work. Freeze damage was reported throughout the state with several reports indicating the occurrence of the first hard freeze. With fields continuing to dry, harvesting was again the main activity for farmers. Alfalfa was 10% very poor, 15% poor, 27% fair, 37% good and 11% excellent. The southern part of the state reported 90% of the 7th and final cutting complete, while the northern counties are now dormant. Cotton harvest also progressed with 55% of the harvest complete and the crop reported in mostly fair to good condition. Irrigated sorghum was reported in mostly fair to good condition and dryland sorghum was reported in very poor to fair condition. Harvest progress for the total sorghum crop was reported 48% complete. Late rains and early snows have contributed to rising conditions in wheat. Irrigated wheat is reported in mostly good to excellent condition and dryland wheat in mostly fair to good condition. Other harvests progressing are: Peanuts at 76% complete; lettuce 90% complete and red chile 62% complete. Ranchers were extremely busy throughout the state with cattle movement being reported as heavy. Wheat grazing is in full swing and many ranchers are contracting their winter feed in preparation of the coming cold temperatures. Cattle conditions were reported at 7% very poor, 19% poor, 32% fair, 41% good and 1% excellent; Sheep were reported at 18% very poor condition, 40% poor, 22% fair, 19% good and 1% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 39% poor, 36% fair, 4% good, and 1% excellent.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Harvested-Red	62	60	74	64
COTTON	Harvested	55	38	80	64
PEANUTS	Harvested	76	65	100	70
SORGHUM (All)	Harvested	48	38	79	72



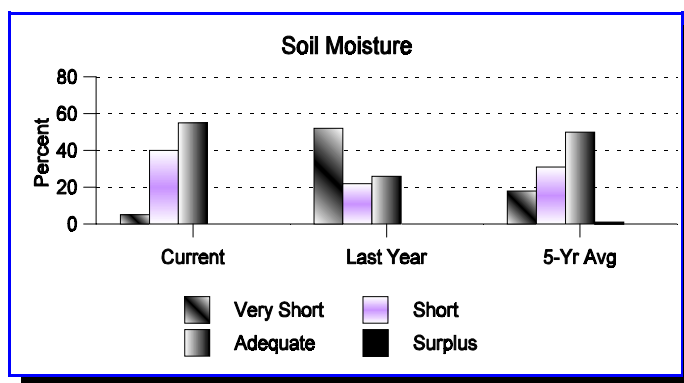
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	10	15	27	37	11
Cotton	1	2	50	32	15
Onions	—	—	10	30	60
Pecans	—	—	37	30	33
Sorghum (All)	26	16	41	17	--
Wheat (All)	—	1	15	77	7
Cattle	7	19	32	41	1
Sheep	18	40	22	19	1

THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE IS COMING

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	8	35	57	--
Northeast	1	37	62	--
Southwest	4	50	44	2
Southeast	10	40	50	--
State	5	40	55	--
State-Last Year	52	22	26	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	18	31	50	1



WEATHER SUMMARY

Two storm systems affected New Mexico during the week. The first system produced spotty rain and snow on the 11th, while the second storm produced some cold rain and snow over mainly the northeast on the 15th. Greatest precipitation totals for the week included 1.23 inches at Tucumcari, .52 inches at Ruidoso, and .48 inches at Clayton. Temperatures for the week were generally a bit below average at most locations. The statewide average was about 3 degrees below normal. Data incomplete for Roy, Los Alamos, Johnson Ranch and Quemado.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS NOVEMBER 11-17, 2002

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	11/11 11/17	11/01 11/17	Normal Nov.	01/01 11/17	Normal Jan-Nov
Carlsbad	50.6	71	32	0.23	0.31	0.59	11.88	12.38
Hobbs	46.2	66	29	0.24	0.37	0.55	14.92	15.57
Roswell	48.1	71	28	T	0.06	0.55	13.01	12.38
Clayton	43.4	66	25	0.48	0.59	0.52	8.87	14.80
Clovis	46.9	72	29	0.40	0.59	0.73	12.90	16.97
Roy	46.2	68	28	0.00	0.00	0.50	15.93	15.29
Tucumcari	42.8	69	22	1.23	1.25	0.51	14.58	13.90
Chama	28.6	54	7	0.00	1.71	1.72	11.53	19.81
Johnson Ranch	34.0	59	15	0.11	0.76	0.69	7.87	10.85
Capulin	33.9	62	6	0.27	0.32	0.67	11.55	16.94
Las Vegas	38.1	66	16	T	0.13	0.67	9.90	16.49
Los Alamos	34.8	48	24	0.00	1.36	1.02	10.83	17.64
Raton	35.2	64	13	0.05	0.38	0.61	10.42	16.22
Santa Fe	35.6	55	17	T	0.57	0.63	9.06	13.21
Red River	25.9	50	5	0.30	1.31	1.18	18.25	19.33
Farmington	38.1	55	21	0.14	0.68	0.94	6.15	8.12
Gallup	36.1	59	13	0.00	0.43	0.95	9.97	11.91
Grants	36.9	63	13	0.00	0.73	0.58	8.85	10.14
Silver City	42.1	64	24	0.00	0.18	0.70	7.84	14.72
Quemado	35.6	65	11	0.00	0.82	0.45	12.85	13.04
Albuquerque	42.7	55	28	T	0.49	0.43	5.90	8.38
Carrizozo	38.6	61	14	0.00	0.00	0.76	10.45	12.07
Gran Quivera	39.4	57	22	0.00	0.41	0.91	10.62	14.92
Moriarty	36.7	58	12	0.00	0.30	0.40	6.19	12.17
Ruidoso	39.7	61	15	0.52	0.55	0.88	15.26	19.72
Socorro	40.4	61	19	0.01	0.01	0.47	8.74	8.95
Alamogordo	48.1	68	28	0.00	0.00	0.71	8.10	11.92
Animas	50.9	69	28	0.00	0.00	0.71	5.78	10.62
Deming	48.7	70	25	0.00	0.00	0.64	7.86	9.73
T or C	45.8	63	27	0.00	0.25	0.60	6.42	9.22
Las Cruces	48.4	71	24	0.00	0.00	0.53	5.95	8.72

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

MILK PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Milk production in New Mexico totaled 534 million pounds in October, 2.9 percent above last month and 12 percent above October, 2001. The average number of milk cows, at 305,000 was unchanged from last month but 32,000 more than a year earlier. Milk production per cow averaged 1,750 pounds, up slightly from last month, and was unchanged from the same period last year. Nationally, New Mexico ranked 7th in milk production.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 20 major States during October totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from October 2001. September revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 2.5 percent from September 2001. The September revision represented a decrease of 91 million pounds or 0.7 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,544 pounds for October, 22 pounds above October 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 67,000 head more than October 2001, and 8,000 head more than September 2002.

Milk Cows and Production: September 2002^{1/} and October 2001-2002

State	Milk Cows ^{2/}			Milk per Cow ^{3/}			Milk Production ^{3/}		
	10/01	9/02	10/02	10/01	9/02	10/02	10/01	9/02	10/02
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	140	150	150	1,670	1,665	1,745	234	250	262
CA	1,609	1,658	1,664	1,745	1,700	1,755	2,808	2,819	2,920
FL	152	148	147	1,120	1,050	1,130	170	155	166
ID	369	392	392	1,820	1,730	1,770	672	678	694
IL	114	115	115	1,390	1,365	1,430	158	157	164
IN	154	149	149	1,375	1,370	1,420	212	204	212
IA	206	209	208	1,480	1,425	1,480	305	298	308
KY	126	120	120	1,030	990	1,035	130	119	124
MI	302	300	300	1,600	1,605	1,650	483	482	495
MN	500	480	480	1,395	1,330	1,390	698	638	667
MO	141	136	136	1,085	1,050	1,120	153	143	152
NM	273	305	305	1,750	1,700	1,750	478	519	534
NY	673	676	676	1,470	1,460	1,500	989	987	1,014
OH	257	264	264	1,380	1,350	1,380	355	356	364
PA	596	587	591	1,500	1,460	1,495	894	857	884
TX	315	309	309	1,240	1,260	1,350	391	389	417
VT	153	153	153	1,450	1,400	1,425	222	214	218
VA	118	119	119	1,290	1,225	1,295	152	146	154
WA	247	247	247	1,860	1,855	1,865	459	458	461
WI	1,281	1,268	1,268	1,400	1,415	1,435	1,793	1,794	1,820
20 STS	7,726	7,785	7,793	1,552	1,498	1,544	11,756	11,663	12,030

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

There were 935 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.30 per hour, up 29 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.44 per hour compared with \$8.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.33 was up 24 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.7 hours a year ago.

Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and U.S., October 01-02^{1/}

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	Oct 7-13 2001	Oct 6-12 2002	Oct 7-13 2001	Oct 6-12 2002	Oct 7-13 2001	Oct 6-12 2002	Oct 7-13 2001	Oct 6-12 2002
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	21	16	17	19	68	58	991	935
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	43.5	35.7	46.6	45.7	40.0	41.7	41.7	40.4
Workers By Work Type	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	7.65	8.31	6.87	7.07	7.16	7.05	8.01	8.30
Livestock	8.09	8.79	8.13	8.24	7.97	7.32	8.39	8.44
Field & Livestock	7.78	8.50	7.25	7.42	7.52	7.18	8.09	8.33
All Workers	8.08	8.79	7.85	8.25	8.01	7.57	8.59	8.93

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. ^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and calves on feed November 1, 2002 for the slaughter market in New Mexico totaled 116,000 head, 3,000 more than a month earlier and 8,000 more than a year ago. Placements of cattle and calves on feed during October totaled 21,000 head, 1,000 above September, but 5,000 less than in October, 2001. Marketings of fed cattle were 16,000 head in October, 2,000 less than last month, but 2,000 more than a year earlier.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on November 1, 2002. The inventory was 9 percent below both November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2000. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.39 million, 12 percent below 2001 and 16 percent below 2000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.98 million, 4 percent above 2001 and 3 percent above 2000. Other disappearance totaled 84,000 during October, 24 percent above 2001 and 27 percent above 2000.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	11/1/01	10/1/02	11/1/02	-----DURING-----								
				10/01	9/02	10/02	10/01	9/02	10/02	10/01	9/02	10/02
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	301	288	290	35	30	28	31	26	25	1	1	1
CA	470	495	490	60	60	60	50	52	58	5	3	7
CO	1,170	1,030	1,060	315	255	250	200	220	210	5	5	10
ID	330	280	295	79	69	77	58	63	61	1	1	1
IA	340	315	335	75	68	95	44	62	73	1	1	2
KS	2,670	2,280	2,300	560	460	455	415	400	410	15	10	25
NE	2,200	1,960	2,110	590	450	520	330	335	360	10	5	10
NM	108	113	116	26	20	21	14	18	16	1	3	2
OK	395	330	340	80	83	75	72	57	63	3	1	2
SD	171	150	170	61	49	57	25	43	36	1	1	1
TX	3,080	2,720	2,730	680	530	600	570	470	570	20	20	20
WA	258	170	185	54	42	49	38	26	33	2	1	1
Oth Sts	370	285	320	87	72	101	49	76	64	3	1	2
US	11,863	10,416	10,741	2,702	2,188	2,388	1,896	1,848	1,979	68	53	84

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.